

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

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Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Karen Jones
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Fire Mobilization Ordered for the Badger Hollow Fire

State fire assistance has been mobilized in support of local firefighters who are working to contain a wildfire in Columbia and Walla Walla Counties.

Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the activation of the State Fire Services Mobilization Plan at 5:00 p.m. on August 8, 2006.

Columbia County fire officials reported that the fire has burned an estimated 8,000 acres, and is threatening approximately 10 homes. This fire started in Walla Walla County at approximately 10:00 p.m. on August 7, 2006, and moved into Columbia County at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Under the mobilization plan, the Fire Protection Bureau will be coordinating the initial dispatch of firefighters, engines, water tenders, and helicopters. Six strike teams of wild land engines, one strike team of water tenders, and one hand crew have been ordered. Resources are responding from Skagit, Snohomish, Island, Clark, Cowlitz, Thurston, Pierce and King Counties. Additionally contract fire fighting resources are being utilized.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray remains activate to Phase II, Enhanced Operations, with Washington State Patrol's Fire Protection Bureau staff present to coordinate state assistance for the Badger Hollow fire. Staff from the Washington State Patrol's Fire Protection Bureau are coordinating resource assistance at the Incident Command Post.

The eastern part of Washington State has been under a Red Flag warning due to the potential for lightning and high winds.

The State Fire Services Mobilization Plan is implemented to provide personnel, equipment and other resources from around the state when wildfires exceed the firefighting capacity of local jurisdictions. More information regarding the mobilization plan is available at:
<http://www.wa.gov/wsp/fire/mobeplan/emobplan.htm>

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